

WHAT'S NEW IN SAINT JOHN'S SUSTAINABILITY

A Bimonthly Publication of the Office of Sustainability at Saint John's University

Welcome

The SJU Office of Sustainability would like to welcome all of the CSB/SJU community as another academic year unfolds! We are so excited that you have decided to learn more about sustainability events and projects happening around campus. Our newsletter aims to shed light on how the Saint John's community is promoting and practicing sustainable behaviors, and how you, as a member of the Johnnie community, can get involved.

In This Issue:

- Welcome
- Chapel Trailhead
- New Fellow
- SJU Eco rep program

Chapel Trailhead

Over the summer, one of the most beloved hiking trails in Minnesota got a new edition! All great hiking trails have a trailhead marking the beginning of the trail and now the chapel trail has a great one! The Chapel trail in the Saint John's Abbey Arboretum is a three mile round trip trail that meanders through some of the most magnificent old growth forest in the state. The main timbers of the trailhead are made of white pine all salvaged from the Abbey's 2,500 acre FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified forest. These timbers were part of the oldest plantings in the Abbey Arboretum dating back to 1926-27 with some dating as far back as 1896. In fact, the only parts of the trailhead that did not come directly from the Abbey Arboretum forest are the locally sourced cedar shingles and benches, making this a truly sustainable trailhead.



An ancient woodworking technique called the mortise and tenon joint was used to construct the frame of the trailhead. In fact, the entire attic of the Quad was constructed using this same traditional woodworking technique. A group of four monks and six volunteers travelled to the North House Folk School in Grand Marais Minnesota to learn this traditional woodworking style from instructor John Henrikson. The trailhead was then assembled at the Folk School, taken apart and brought back to SJU for reassembly. During the Saint John's Outdoor Universities Collegeville Colors event on Sunday October 4th, a chapel trailhead dedication ceremony was held in honor of the new trailhead.

Introductory Letter from the Fellow

Over the Summer, The Saint John's Office of Sustainability welcomed me to be the new fellow for the 2015-2016 academic year. As the sustainability fellow, I will help to manage sustainability efforts around the Saint John's campus. I am very grateful and excited for this opportunity to continue the proud history of sustainability at Saint John's. I am a 2015 graduate of Saint John's University where I studied biology and environmental studies. During my time at Saint John's I participated in two different study abroad programs, one to Ecuador and one to South Africa, both of which helped me foster a love for sustainability and the environment.

In Ecuador, I conducted ecological research on eco tourism and human wildlife interactions, looking for ways that humans and nature could peacefully coexist. In South Africa, I worked in a community agriculture program, which helped local people learn how to grow and raise their own produce, as well as care for the land. Recently, I worked at the Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center in Marine on St. Croix, an outdoor learning center specializing in environmental education, where I worked as a summer naturalist assistant educating kids about environmental issues and teaching environmental respect.

I am very excited for this academic year, and I believe that I can help Saint John's continue to progress in its sustainability efforts. You are all welcome and encouraged to come to me with ideas for improving campus sustainability. I look forward to working with the entire Saint John's community and seeing what we can accomplish together.

Sincerely,

Jake Lammi - Sustainability Fellow

Eco rep Program

Starting this school year, the Office of Sustainability has launched a new sustainability peer education program called Eco reps. An Eco rep is a first year Johnnie who volunteers in his resident hall to promote awareness about sustainability. Eco reps will assist the Office of Sustainability in planning and carrying out events. Further, Eco reps will help to educate their peers about the importance of campus sustainability and show all first years students that Saint John's is committed to creating a campus culture of sustainability and environmental awareness.

Contact Us

Do you have any comments, questions, or project ideas for Saint John's?

Let us know!

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